

2014-2015

**SOUTH NEWTON
HIGH SCHOOL**

13102 South 50 East
Kentland, Indiana 47951

**SCHOOL
IMPROVEMENT
PLAN**

**Superintendent: Mr. Todd Rudnick
Principal: Mr. Charles Huckstep**

Mission Statement

South Newton High School provides opportunities for all of our learners to achieve a successful future.

School Vision Statement

South Newton High School will become an exemplary learning community that supports student academic achievement through meaningful relationships. We will address the needs of all learners and strive to create a differentiated learning environment in which ALL students are capable of success.

Belief Statements

1. All students can learn best when actively engaged in their learning process.
2. Clear goals and high expectations for student achievement should guide the development of the curriculum and design of instructional strategies and learning activities.
3. Parents, students, educators, school board, and the entire community are responsible for implementing and achieving the school's goals.
4. A safe and comfortable environment along with mutual respect promotes student learning.

Corporation Mission Statement

The mission of the South Newton School Corporation is to educate and empower children, youth and adults for full participation in a rapidly changing society and to build, sustain and extend a learning community which improves the quality of life for all members of the Corporation, regardless of race, gender, natural origin, disability, or socioeconomic level.

Technology Vision

All South Newton technology stakeholders will integrate technology with learning to enable them to succeed in their educational and career goals.

School Improvement Committee Members

Karen Van Duyn
Cheryl Link
Cathy Costello
Megan Giordano
Darrell Allen
Landon Hawkins

Awards

South Newton High School was recognized for our hard work by receiving a 4-Star rating this year, based on 2012/2013 data by the Indiana Department of Education. This is a great accomplishment by our students, staff and community.

In addition, South Newton High School was recognized by US News and World Report and received a bronze award rating based on information from 2011/2012 data. We are extremely proud of this award also. Dedication and hard work has made these two awards possible. In looking back, this is the first time these awards have been presented to South Newton High School.

School and Community Information

South Newton Schools are centrally located on 60 acres in Jefferson Township in Newton County in northwest Indiana. Students who live in Washington, Iroquois, Grant, and Jefferson Townships in Newton County and York Township in Benton County attend South Newton Schools. The Corporation consists of 195.5 square miles. The school district consists of one elementary, one middle school, and one high school. There are 845 students enrolled at South Newton School Corporation this school year (2013). Over the years, the student population has declined due to industry moving out of our community. The elementary, middle, and high schools are located on the same campus and are under one roof.

The community is rich in agriculture production and the agribusiness enterprises needed to support this production. Over the last several years, several small businesses have moved out of the area. Some light manufacturing still remains in the area providing some high tech nature to the community. The community supports the educational programs with volunteers and financial resources. It also provides individuals who are willing to serve on numerous committees to enhance the function of the educational community.

South Newton School Corporation is living the motto that states "The only thing that is constant is change." The community, school administration and staff embarked on a major restructuring project in 1995. A strong commitment to change is evidenced by the dreams that have become reality since 1995. Students now enter preschool and graduate under one roof with the construction of a new elementary building on the campus of the Middle/High School. The elementary project was completed in 1996, and new classrooms and offices were constructed in

2000 to house the sixth grade students in the Middle School. These changes have affected facilities and curriculum and are a key combination for student success.

Major changes in the technical, vocational, and academic curriculum have taken place over the years. Cooperative planning with parents, students, staff, administration, business leaders and community resource people has driven this change process. Many staff members and administrators have participated in local, state, and national workshops to glean the most current information regarding educational curriculum. Some of the major changes that have taken place include the following:

- 1) Combination of three elementary schools into one facility.
- 2) Major renovation at the South Newton Middle and Senior High School.
- 3) Consistent upgrade of technology
- 4) Project Lead the Way began in the fall of 2001.
- 5) A preschool, all day kindergarten and several after school programs function with support from Newton County Step Ahead, and Purdue Cooperative Extension Service, and other agencies.
- 6) 1:1 implementation grades 3-12, 2014/2015
- 7) Upgrade of technology infrastructure (2013)
- 8) New teacher evaluation system (Standards for Success) – student learning objectives (2012)
- 9) Alignment to the Common Core Standards, Indiana State Standards
- 10) English 10 and Algebra I remediation classes before taking the End-of-Course Assessment tests
- 11) Expansion of dual credit agreements with colleges, currently 19 dual credit classes
- 12) Biweekly professional development meetings

Change has not come easily and is, by no means, complete. Overall funding has been reduced the last several years. Our corporation has demonstrated its commitment to making the most improvements with the amount of dollars we have received. We believe the infrastructure is in place to facilitate the vocational and academic change that needs to happen to enable all of our students to succeed.

Technology

South Newton has increased our band width to 30 mbs. This upgrade has opened the door to several electronic curriculum based lessons. Now teachers can video stream much more easily and consistently. We have also increased our wireless access points from 20 up to 40 beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, allowing more consistency as students move from one classroom to another. In addition we have added 5 outside access points on campus and Gmail accounts have been added for all students in grades 6-12.

The Past, Present and Future of School Improvement at South Newton High School

South Newton High School began a serious effort to improve the academic opportunities of students in 1997 as staff, students, and community members worked to successfully complete the Indiana Academic School Improvement Plan (ISAIP). One of the first implementations of this plan was to implement a Block 4 schedule. The ISAIP supported the institution of the Student Resource Time (SRT). The SRT teachers worked with and advocated for their SRT students:

- To develop a career plan
- To interpret ISTEP, NWEA and GQE scores
- To complete a four-year course selection plan
- To improve reading every Tuesday and Thursday
- To communicate academic progress to parents
- To improve grades by using academic study tables on Mondays and Fridays

Students met with their SRT teachers three days per week and then had the opportunity to join clubs, investigate a new activity, participate in supervised study tables, receive tutoring or remediation, practice for the SAT or choose one of about 30 different activities. Over the years, as more academic requirements came from the Department of Education, our school abandoned the idea of SRT three days per week and went to one day per week, in order to provide more instructional time. Another reason SRT was shortened is that South Newton is on Central Standard Time, athletes must leave our building earlier in order to make it to other schools in the Eastern Standard Time zone. Athletes typically leave around 3:00 pm.

Another outcome for the ISAIP plan was the selection of the “High Schools That Work” (HSTW) initiative of the Southern Region Education Board (SREB), a school improvement process. South Newton completed 13 years of this process of school improvement and used this model for implementation of Public Law 221. South Newton High School’s affiliation with “High Schools That Work” was terminated in 2010 when the state stopped supporting Indiana’s membership.

In 2003, in response to shrinking enrollments and state funding cuts, the High School schedule was changed to a traditional 7-period schedule. This change enabled sharing of teachers between middle and high schools and expanded programming for students.

Beginning the fall of 2014, South Newton will begin their 1:1 technology program. Staff development and several committee meetings have taken place in order to prepare our teaching staff for the upcoming change in delivery of instruction. This computer initiative will enhance student learning and challenge students for the upcoming world they will live in.

Key practices for accelerating student achievement

- **High expectations**
South Newton has provided several classes for students seeking to become college and career ready. Vocational offerings in the area of technology and agriculture have increased over the years, along with other preparatory classes. Emphasis has been

placed on problem solving skills and higher math skills. Academics have been stressed more in relationship to taking post-secondary training after graduation. Even though not every student will attend college, classes are structured to challenge all students.

- **Collaboration**

Teachers attend a one-hour professional development every other week after school in order to plan and deliver integrated instruction aimed at teaching high-level academic and technical content.

- **Guidance**

Each student, plus his or her parents/guardian, is involved with our counselor to set up the completion of an accelerated program of study with an in-depth academic or vocational-technical goal.

- **Support**

South Newton provides a structured system of extra help to enable students who may lack adequate preparation to pass their classes. Students are encouraged to receive tutoring either before or after school for about 15 minutes on any given day without losing valuable class time. Student tutors were secured for the 2013-2014 school year and will be secured for the 2014-2015 school year. Several teachers are available to help students before or after school. Students may ride our activity bus at 5:00pm to selected drop off points in our surrounding communities.

- **Assessment**

South Newton teachers and staff use student assessment and program evaluation data to continuously improve the school climate, organization, management, curricula and instruction.

Academic Expectations for Students at South Newton High School

1. Students develop their four-year high school curricular plan in the middle school.
2. Students are encouraged to complete a course in mathematics each year of their high school career.
3. Students are guided to make college financial plans early in their high school career.
4. Students may not move on to another level of math unless they receive a C- or better in the previous course.
5. With a few exceptions, students may only take one language arts class at a time.
6. End of course exams/projects are in place for all curricular classes.
7. Accommodations are made for students with individualized educational plans.
8. Starting in 2012-2013, the South Newton School Corporation adopted a new evaluation plan (Standards for Success) which has a Student Learning Objective component.
9. OdysseyWare has been used for online credit recovery.
10. Struggling academic students at South Newton, may be referred to our alternative school to regain credits previously lost.
11. South Newton High School requires 42 credits to graduate along with passing the state tests.

Indian Trails Area Career Center

Students from South Newton are eligible to participate in certain vocational courses offered at other area schools under the direction of the Indian Trails Area Career Center. These opportunities expand the course selection available to students and will enable them to receive career and technical training in the area that matches their career plan.

Dual Credit Courses

Students can receive college credit for successful completion of courses in the following courses:

Advanced Placement English Composition, grades 11 & 12	Ivy Tech
Agri-Business Management	Ivy Tech
Horticultural Science I	Ivy Tech
Advanced Life Science Animals	Purdue
Advanced Life Science Foods	Purdue
Welding Technology I, Introduction to Welding	Ivy Tech
Welding Technology I, Shielded Metal Arc Welding	Ivy Tech
Welding Technology II, Oxygen-Fuel Gas Welding	Ivy Tech
Welding Technology II, Gas Metal Arc Welding	Ivy Tech
Medical Terminology	Ivy Tech
Physical Therapy – second semester	St Joseph
Project Lead the Way (PLTW)	
Introduction to Engineering	Ivy Tech
Principles of Engineering	Ivy Tech
Computer Integrated Manufacturing	Ivy Tech
Digital Electronics	Ivy Tech
Spanish III	Ivy Tech
Spanish IV	Ivy Tech
Pre-Calculus	Ivy Tech
AP Biology	Ivy Tech

School Safety Information

Mr. Mark Mayhew (Elementary Assistant Principal) serves as the corporation school safety specialist.

All staff members share the responsibility on matters relating to our school's safe environment. It is the responsibility of all employees to make sure that doors are secure, hallways monitored, and school safety procedures are followed. Students are encouraged to speak to teachers, school counselor, and the administration regarding any safety issues that come up in a student's life. Concerns are dealt with in a timely fashion. Student safety is the top priority and everyone's responsibility.

Fire/Tornado Evacuations are posted in every classroom. These guidelines should explain safety evacuation routes and safe locations in case of a tornado or fire.

Red clip boards are in every classroom. These clipboards have multiple purposes. A copy of the school-wide safety plan, classroom roster, and any special instructions for any special needs student who may need special assistance during time of evacuation are attached to this board. This clipboard is taken during all drills. Attendance is taken and any student not with his or her class is reported to the emergency supervisor. If for some reason a student is missing or a problem arises, the clipboard will be used as a signal.

Quick School Safety Reference Guides are important and serve to outline procedures in the case of an emergency. Each classroom has a copy of this new document (lockout, lockdown, evacuate and shelter) provided this school year (2014-2015).

Though no plan can prepare one completely, a consistent, thorough plan that is followed closely by everyone can make an emergency situations less stressful and save lives.

Cameras – South Newton School Corporation has invested in 75 cameras throughout the campus to help keep our students safe. At this time, we have not invested in a school resource officer.

South Newton High School Stats

ECA – Pass both English and Math

Year	% passing	State Average %
9/10	30.9	56.8
10/11	65.5	68.0
11/12	69.6	71.5
12/13	82.1	70.4
13/14	75.3	72.8

English 10 only

9/10	49.1	64.9
10/11	76.4	71.9
11/12	74.1	77.8
12/13	81.4	75.9
13/14	76.6	78.2

Algebra I only

9/10	24.2	63.3
10/11	33.3	72.4
11/12	75.0	70.2
12/13	91.2	69.4
13/14	89.5	73.3

Biology

9/10	37.7	37.9
10/11	37.3	46.9
11/12	50.7	45.5
12/13	50.6	47.7
13/14	52.3	48.7

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

Students are encouraged to take seven classes for credit each semester unless he/she has an IEP. Students may elect to take one study hall per semester. One full credit shall consist of five classroom periods per week for one semester. Additional preparation outside the classroom may be necessary for course completion.

Students will be enrolled in high school for eight semesters. Conditions may warrant that a student petition the school board for early graduation at the end of seven semesters if all requirements are met according to the state and local school board guidelines.

South Newton High School requires 42 credits to receive a diploma. There are four types of diplomas available, depending on courses taken and the level of success earned: general diploma, Core 40 diploma, Core 40 diploma with Academic Honors, and Core 40 with Technical Honors.

Graduation Rate

Year	% passing	# of students	State average%
06/07	67.2	45	78.4
07/08	76.8	63	79.7
08/09	77.7	73	83.3
09/10	73.4	58	85.9
10/11	73.7	56	87.1
11/12	74.5	41	88.1
12/13	81.5	44	88.6
13/14	NA	49	NA

2012/13 School Improvement Plan graduation rate 78.7%

2013/14 School Improvement Plan graduation rate low 80's

Enrollment

Grade	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
9	60	58	85	70	80	51
10	82	62	57	74	68	82
11	81	72	54	52	61	60
12	86	74	74	59	50	48
12+ Adult			1		1	
Total Enrol	309	266	271	255	260	241

Attendance By Grade

Grade	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Grade 9	96.10%	94.80%	95.50%	95.60%	95.10%	95.70%	96.10%	
Grade 10	95.50%	94.40%	95.00%	94.40%	95.50%	95.40%	95.90%	
Grade 11	95.80%	94.70%	93.80%	94.80%	93.70%	94.80%	95.10%	
Grade 12	96.30%	95.60%	93.70%	94.50%	93.40%	94.70%	94.80%	
All Grades	95.90%	94.80%	94.40%	94.80%	94.50%	95.30%	95.60%	95.90%

Professional Development

Professional development meets twice a month after school for approximately one hour. Starting in January, 2014, various educational 1:1 topics were discussed along with innovative teaching strategies. The professional development was teacher lead. Teachers are preparing for the 2014/15 school year in which students will be carrying a Lenovo X140e device.

Resources

The First Days of School, Wong, H. K.

Presentations by South Newton staff

Presentations by local special education cooperative staff

Presentations by “outside” speakers, Dr. James Beeghley – summer 2014

Methodology of Professional Development

*Teachers continue to review and implement core educational concepts regarding our 1:1 initiative.

*During professional development meetings, teachers discuss curricular issues and concerns in order to make decisions regarding appropriate courses of action for school improvement.

*The various departments are provided time to meet and plan, revise, and coordinate curriculum during their department meetings.

*Teachers receive information and training in instructional strategies, instruction geared to learning styles and differentiated instruction, every other Wednesday during the school year.

*New teacher orientation, developed and delivered by teaching staff members, is conducted each summer prior to the opening of school. This has been very beneficial to new teachers in the corporation.

Professional Development Topics 2012, 2013, 2014

Google calendar, forms, spreadsheets, folders, maps and documents. Other 1:1 presentations include: Glogster, pinterest, LiveBinders, Prezi, Teaching with eBooks, Screencastomatic, Symbaloo, Weebly, Socrative, Kahoot, Blogger, My Big Campus, Canvas, Moodle, Exam View, Destiny lesson planning and Ipad training.

Teacher evaluation

Harmony work session

Smartboard and notebooks workshop

Autism 101 (2 sessions)

Common Core Standards

Engagement Strategies with At-Risk students

Using Smart phones and I-Pads in the classroom

Inspire

Spreadsheets-Excel and Google tools

Curriculum mapper (math department)

Therapeutic Crisis Intervention training

Pad, Pods, and Phones

Curriculum Collaboration

Mind Mapping

Websites as tools for learning

Kids of Today – outside presenter from IVY TECH

1:1 What is it all about?

Wiki's, Weebly, Slidrocket, Prezi

Bullying identification and helping students

Integrating Math Standards into other content areas

Integrating Science Standards into other content areas

Integrating English Standards into other content areas

The following professional development topics were conducted June 10-12 and August 4-6, 2014. Teachers were immersed in a variety of technology topics they can implement for the upcoming year to enhance the 1:1 initiative.

Adobe	Symbaloo	Class Dojo	Socrative
Blogger	Pinterest	Live Binders	Prezi
Slide Dog	Kahoot	My Big Campus	Teaching with eBooks
iMovie	Movie Maker	Google Earth	Screencastomatic
Movie Maker	ThingLink	Weebly	Virtual Integrity
Mobymax	LanSchool	Planning in Destiny	Web 2.0 tools
Google docs, folders, apps, tools for research, maps			Glogster

Curriculum

Project Lead the Way

Advanced Placement Classes – English 11, English 12, Spanish Language and Culture, Biology,
Anatomy

Honors Class – English 10

Algebra, Spanish offered in middle school

Dual Credit courses

Vocational classes

Web based educational supplements

Assessments

End-of-Course Assessment English 10 Algebra I Biology

Local teacher assessments approved by the administration

Student Learning Objectives

Teacher evaluation using the Standards for Success model

Acuity testing

Advanced Placement testing

SAT

PSAT

ALEKS

Indiana Test Prep

Diplomas

	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14
Honors	13 (22%)	23 (37%)	7 (20%) 1 Tech	9 (23%) 1 Tech	10(23%) 1 Tech
Core 40	42 (71%)	27 (45%) 1 waiver	31 (76%)	27 (64%) 1 waiver	30(61%)
General	4 (7%)	11 (18%)	2 (4%)	6 (14%) 1 waiver	7(16%) 1 waiver

Enrollment by Ethnicity, 2013-2014

White	83%
Hispanic	13%
Multiracial	1%
Black	1%
Hawaiian	1%
American Indian	1%
Total Students	256
Paid lunches	128 50%
Free lunches	103 40%
Reduced	25 10%

Special Education

Special Education	16.27%
General Education	83.73%

South Newton High School employed 3 special education paraprofessionals for the 2013-2014 school year. 1.5 licensed teachers service our special education population. Due to an increase in special education needs, a fourth paraprofessional will be employed for the 2014-2015 school year.

ELL Education 5.16%

SAT Composite Score

	School	State Average
08/09	950	998
09/10	943	997
10/11	935	990
11/12	877	989
12/13	909	987
13/14	948	991

Remediation at the High School

Winter testing 2014/15

English 10	Passed 10	Did not Pass 11
Algebra	Passed 2	Did not Pass 11

Before each ECA test we provide between 7/8 sessions (fall and spring) after school for 2 hours for both English and Algebra remediation. Both tests are given twice per year.

In the summer we provide Algebra remediation/credit recovery for 4 weeks at 3.5 hours per day and then students take the test late in June.

We do not provide any summer classes for English remediation. We have provided Odysseyware (online) for credit recovery.

Review of Data

Review of the data indicates that over the last couple of years, our English 10 scores have averaged in the mid 70's to the low 80's while during the last two years our Algebra I scores have been in the low 90's respectively. Teachers have worked hard to provide a curriculum that will prepare students for the future.

South Newton, for being a small school, has a diverse cultural population. This diversity enriches what South Newton is all about, KIDS. Although our graduation rate has been lower than the state average, strides are being made that will take some time. Emphasis has been placed on student contact regarding grades and homework as well as attendance. Several students are working hard in the classroom to achieve a Core 40 diploma (64% in 2012/2013), (61% in 2013/2014). Honor diplomas have remained in the low 20% range for the last couple of years. The socio-economic status of the area has seen a downward spiral in the last 10 years due to industry moving out of the area. Enrollment has declined by as many as 50 to 70 students

over the last ten years. This creates difficulties as just one or two student outcomes can skew performance categories.

Our free and reduced lunch rate continues to rise. Families struggle because of the limited number of jobs available in the South Newton School District. Our special education co-op has provided some money to purchase curriculum and hardware to be used in our elementary to improve student learning. The thought is, extra attention early on will help lower our special education population.

Graduation Rate 2014 - 2015

Goal: To increase the high school graduation rate for the class of 2015 to 85%.

Intervention: The faculty of South Newton High School will work to increase the graduation rate by continuing to enforce the current attendance policy and studying the effects of the ECA remediation intervention programs. At the earliest sign of at-risk behavior, as indicated by a classroom teacher and/or standardized test success, grades, attendance, and behavior referrals, students will be identified and strategies will be put into place to determine the best set of interventions for each individual need. Parents/Guardians will be contacted to ask for their assistance.

Activities/ Strategies: At-Risk students will meet with our guidance counselor and administration on an as needed basis to discuss a strategy to make the student successful. Students falling behind in credits will have the option to enroll in our online credit recovery

program. At the appropriate time, parents/guardians will be contacted and the at-risk behavior will be discussed along with solutions.

Areas to be addressed to help make the student more successful include:

- Poor attendance
- Low educational expectations
- Lack of effort
- Low commitment to school, homework
- No extracurricular participation
- Lack of family engagement in the educational process
- “Outside” school factors

Attendance Rate 2014 - 2015

Goal: To increase the high school student attendance rate to an annual rate of 96.1%.

Intervention: Administrative staff and support staff will work with students and parents to encourage regular attendance through conferencing with students, contacting parents, and when necessary, enlisting the services of appropriate “outside” agencies. Improved attendance will lead to better grades.

Activities/Strategies:

The attendance policy was slightly changed for the 2013/2014 school year to reflect an acknowledgement of medical notes from doctors. Four medical days may be added to the current policy of no more than seven absence days to receive class credit. Students that violate

this policy have to meet with the administration for an attendance review. Possible solutions could be; make-up of days missed above the absence limit or loss of class credit for those classes affected. Support staff will contact parents/guardians through School Reach on days when students are absent with no verification of the absence from the parent/guardian. Verification of the absence is encouraged in order to keep an accurate accounting of missed days and how that absence might affect receiving class credit. Administrative team members/Guidance Counselor will consult with students whose attendance is a concern. Students will be reminded of the benefits of regular attendance, the attendance regulations, and the possible consequences of violation.

Administrative team members will also contact parents of students whose attendance is a concern. During those contacts, parents will be apprised of the benefits of regular attendance, the attendance requirements of the school and state, and the possible consequences of violations. When deemed appropriate by the administrative team, local agencies will be involved in the effort to improve attendance of identified students.

School Improvement Plan 2015-2016

Goal

South Newton High School will continue to work to improve our attendance rate (96.3%)
South Newton High School will continue to work to improve our graduation rate (88.0%)
Begin investigation into a school wide reading program

Interventions

Attendance/Graduation rate – Continue our close contact with students and parents.
Collect accurate data and communicate the information to the student and parent.

Reading program – Collect research and best practices information related to improving reading in the classroom. Form a committee to investigate the most efficient program for South Newton High School that will help students become better readers. Survey

staff and students as to their present reading habits.

School Improvement Plan 2016-2017

Goal – South Newton High School will continue to work to improve our attendance rate (96.5%)
South Newton High School will continue to work to improve our graduation rate (90.0%)
Our school wide reading program will be functional.

Interventions -

Attendance/Graduation rate – Continue our close contact with students and parents.
Collect accurate up-to-date information and share it with the student and parent.

Reading program – implement a reading program in which every student will be challenged to improve their reading. This could be a sustained reading time during the school day or specific reading of material during the class period. Research collected in 2015-2016 will drive this program.

Professional Development

Professional development will occur two times a month after school for around one hour each meeting. Professional development for 2014 – 2015 will concentrate on building electronic curriculum around our 1:1 program. Teachers will gain valuable resources to use in their classroom to challenge students educationally. Also, in 2015 – 2016, our staff will be discussing a reading program to begin in 2016-2017. Student, staff and community input will be needed to make the program successful.

Professional development in 2016-2017 will center on developing instructional strategies to enhance our reading program. Staff members will continue to work on preparing challenging lessons using 1:1 technology.